

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00644 291600Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 EUR-12 SSM-03 /093 W  
-----291602Z 112021 /41

P R 291306Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1516  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USIA WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 0644

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, SY, US  
SUBJECT: SYRIAN PRESS ON EVENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON

1. THAWRA DEVOTED LEAD ARTICLE TO VISIT OF WALDHEIM  
AND STATEMENT OF ISRAELI FONMIN ALLON TO U.S. JEWISH  
GROUP ON ISRAEL'S DETERMINATION NOT TO WITHDRAW TO  
PRE-JUNE 1967 BORDERS. PAPER HEADLINED "ISRAEL DECLARES ITS  
AGGRESSIVE POLICY PRIOR TO WALDHEIM'S TOUR.....ALLON ASSERTS  
ISRAEL'S REFUSAL TO WITHDRAW FROM ARAB TERRITORIES."

2. SOLE ARTICLE ON EVENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON APPEARED ON  
LOWER PORTION FRONT PAGE, CAPTIONED "QUADRIPARTITE  
COMMITTEE MEETS TODAY UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF SARKIS,  
ASAAD (LEBANESE SPEAKER) CALLS FOR PREPAREDNESS IN  
CONFRONTING ISRAELI THREATS." ARTICLE REPORTED THAT  
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COMMITTEE WILL HEAR REPORT OF ADF DEPLOYMENTS AND  
COMPLETING OF THE SECURITY PLAN "TO INCLUDE ALL  
LEBANESE TERRITORY." KAMAL ASAAD REPORTED  
CALLING FOR ARABS TO SUPPORT LEBANON IN FACE OF "A NEW  
ZIONIST ADVENTURE." ARTICLE REFERRED TO MENA REPORT  
ON ASAAD IN WHICH HE DECLARED "ISRAEL WANTS TO KEEP  
THE STATUS QUO IN LEBANON, AS SHOWN BY ITS

REJECTION OF ADF PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH WHICH INDICATES  
PREMEDITATED INTENTIONS TO MAKE SOUTH A CARD WHICH  
IT CAN PLAY TO ITS BENEFIT AND AN EXPLOSIVE WITH WHICH  
IT CAN REKINDLE THE CRISIS."

3. CONCLUSION OF ARTICLE QUOTED EXCERPTS OF INTERVIEW  
SPEAKER ASAAD GAVE RADIO BEIRUT IN WHICH HE WARNED THAT  
"THERE IS CONTRIVED ATTEMPT TO CREATE A CONFESSIONAL  
CRISIS IN THE SOUTH" WHICH COULD RENEW LEBANON'S  
CIVIL WAR.

4. THAWRA EDITORIALS FOCUSED ON ALLON'S STATEMENTS  
REJECTING TOTAL WITHDRAWAL AT TIME WHEN WALDHEIM AND THREE  
FOREIGN MINISTERS "OF GREAT POWERS" DUE TO BEGIN IN AREA.

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5. COMMENT. PRESS PLAY OF SOUTH LEBANON CRISIS REMAINS  
RESTRAINED. PUBLIC MADE AWARE THAT TENSION HAS  
DEVELOPED OVER DEPLOYMENTS OF SYRIAN-DOMINATED ADF BUT  
NO THREATS OR INFLAMMATORY RHETORIC IN EVIDENCE WHICH  
COULD LIMIT SARG'S ROOM FOR MANEUVER.  
MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, CIVIL DISORDERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DAMASC00644  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SYRIAN PRESS ON EVENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, SY, US, LE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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